

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard.

I used to look
forward to watching
the local late night
news until Sinclair
Broadcasting took
over. Each night
Sinclair's Vice
president, Mark
Hyman, bombards
viewers with their
own political
rhetoric delivered
as if it were part
of the local news.
I am so offended
that I usually turn
off the TV at this
point. It feels

just like reading
some Orwellian
novel, but it's
real. To think that
Sinclair is pushing
to acquire even more
stations is
frightening.
Eventually, I guess
there will be no
"real" news.